

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In order to provide a zoom lens which has excellent optical performance with a compact configuration using a small number of constituent  
5 lenses, a zoom lens according to the present invention comprises a first lens unit having a negative optical power, a second lens unit having a positive optical power, and a third lens unit having a positive optical power, which are sequentially arranged from the object  
10 side, wherein the gap between the first and second lens units is decreased, the space between the second and third lens units is increased in zooming from the side angle end to the telephoto end, the third lens unit has a cemented lens formed by cementing a positive lens  
15 element to a negative lens element, and is moved along the optical axis for zooming, and letting  $NL_i$  be the number of lensess constituting the  $i$ th lens unit, a condition,

$$NL_3 < NL_2 \leq NL_1$$
  
20 is satisfied.